wittyfeed

Horrifying Creatures Found In The Basement Of A London Mansion Will Give You Chills

History

During 1960 in London, at the time of clearing the site for the construction of new residential neighborhood, the long-abandoned mansion belonged to Thomas Theodore Merrylin, a crypto naturalist was sent for destruction. In the basement of the building, the builders found that there were many wooden crates sealed. To their surprise, when they opened the box they began to find out strange mythical creatures inside them.

Merrylin, The Legend



Merrylin was born in 1782 in a wealthy aristocratic family. He was fond of collecting bizarre things, just like his father Edward and spent his entire life in hunting hidden species all around the world.

Is Merrylin's collection for real or a total bust?




Nobody knows anything about these creatures.




This is ethereal



Could you imagine finding these?



Fragments of civilization.



The collection also included artifacts of curious origin, that once ruled the world and perhaps better left in past.

Myth and reality



Much of the Merrylin's collection dance on the border of myth and reality. It's still a mystery whether most of his

artifacts found in Merrylin Cryptid Museum are real.

They are mystical



Obscure species.



The wooden crates found in the basement of London contained about 5000 species of flora and fauna. They were dissected and preserved by many scientists.

Do skeletons have wings?



Darco Magnus



The largest known species of Darco were found. This particular skeleton belonged to a young male who mourned their dead like humans and elephants.






Moses




E
B
C
A
D


Recently botched
winged Homunculus

ALEXCF.COM





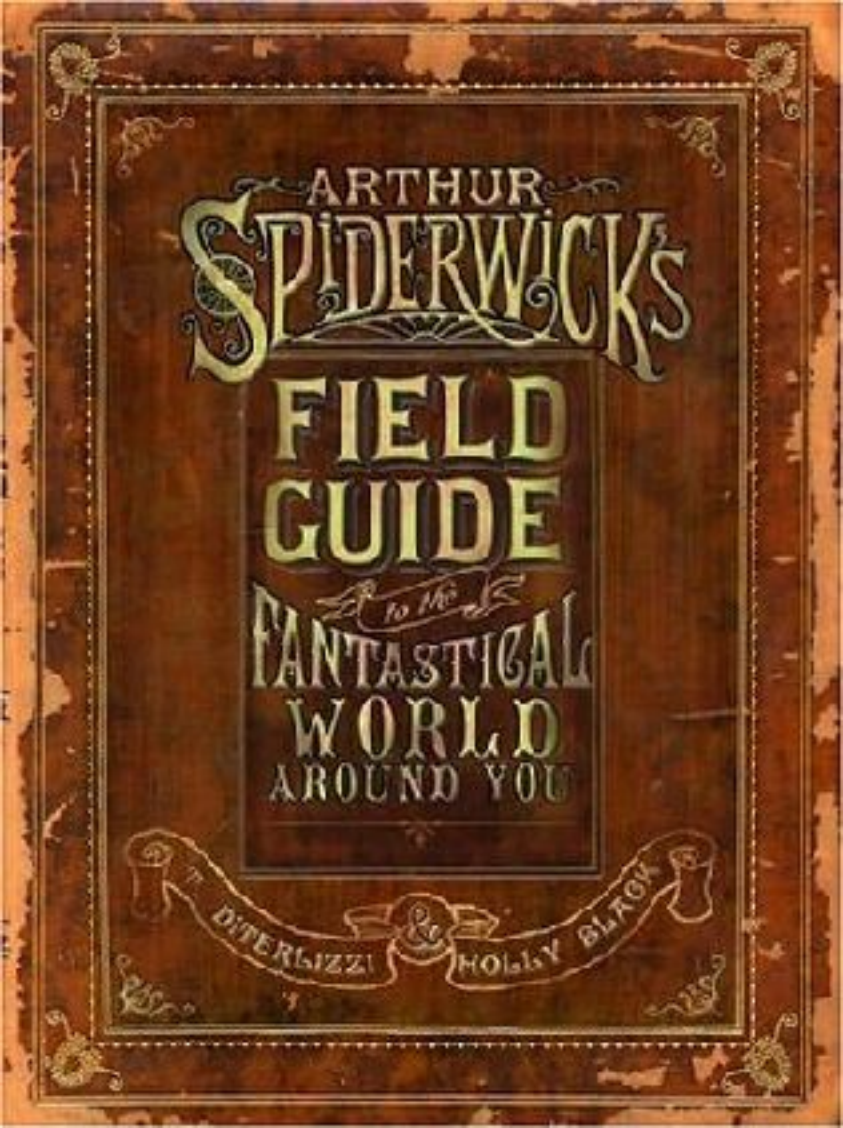












ARTHUR
SPIDERWICK'S
FIELD
GUIDE
to the
FANTASTICAL
WORLD
AROUND YOU
DIETERLIZZI & HOLLY BLACK

September 6th, 1909

I visited the Riggenbach estate today, as its owners were convinced it was haunted. However, it appears to be no more than the handiwork of a particularly mischievous boggart.

The Riggenbach boggart has small, vestigial wings.

This bugger tried to make off with my spectacles!

Holding a broken shard of glass

He is wearing a stolen pair of doll shoes.

His pocket also holds one of my pencils and a lock of someone's hair.

Custos domesticus

COMMON HOUSE BOGGART

RENDERED ACTUAL SIZE

F. Sydenbark

All trolls have exceptional hearing and sense of smell.

This species will frequently leave its den and venture onto land in search of food.

Here, she has used the pelts from her meals as protection against the bitter, chilly environment.

This very old female was fond of shiny objects and had adorned herself with all that she had collected.



A. Spiderwick

Note the shackles on her wrists. She obviously had been captured by humans at one point. Of course, in time the iron burned and calloused her skin.

She smelled like rotten wood.

Vorax baverensis

BAUER'S TROLL

RENDERED ONE-FOURTEENTH ACTUAL SIZE

This is Terrance Fink, a changeling boy raised by a family of farmers in upstate New York.

Terrance was probably swapped when the Finks' newborn was brought home from the hospital.

The Finks contacted me and I came out to investigate. My findings are as follows:

The boy's father, Dennis, was a strapping, robust man known for his incredible appetite, which I witnessed firsthand when he proceeded to eat one dozen pancakes for breakfast one morning! However, his stomach was no match for little Terrance, who ate over 20 pancakes, then asked for more!

Terrance's hair was another oddity. His poor mother would cut it every morning, only to have it grow several inches by day's end. Brushing and combing the hair proved useless as it always grew at odd angles and stuck up like a pineapple.



Note the pointed ears.

He was always snickering but barely ever spoke.

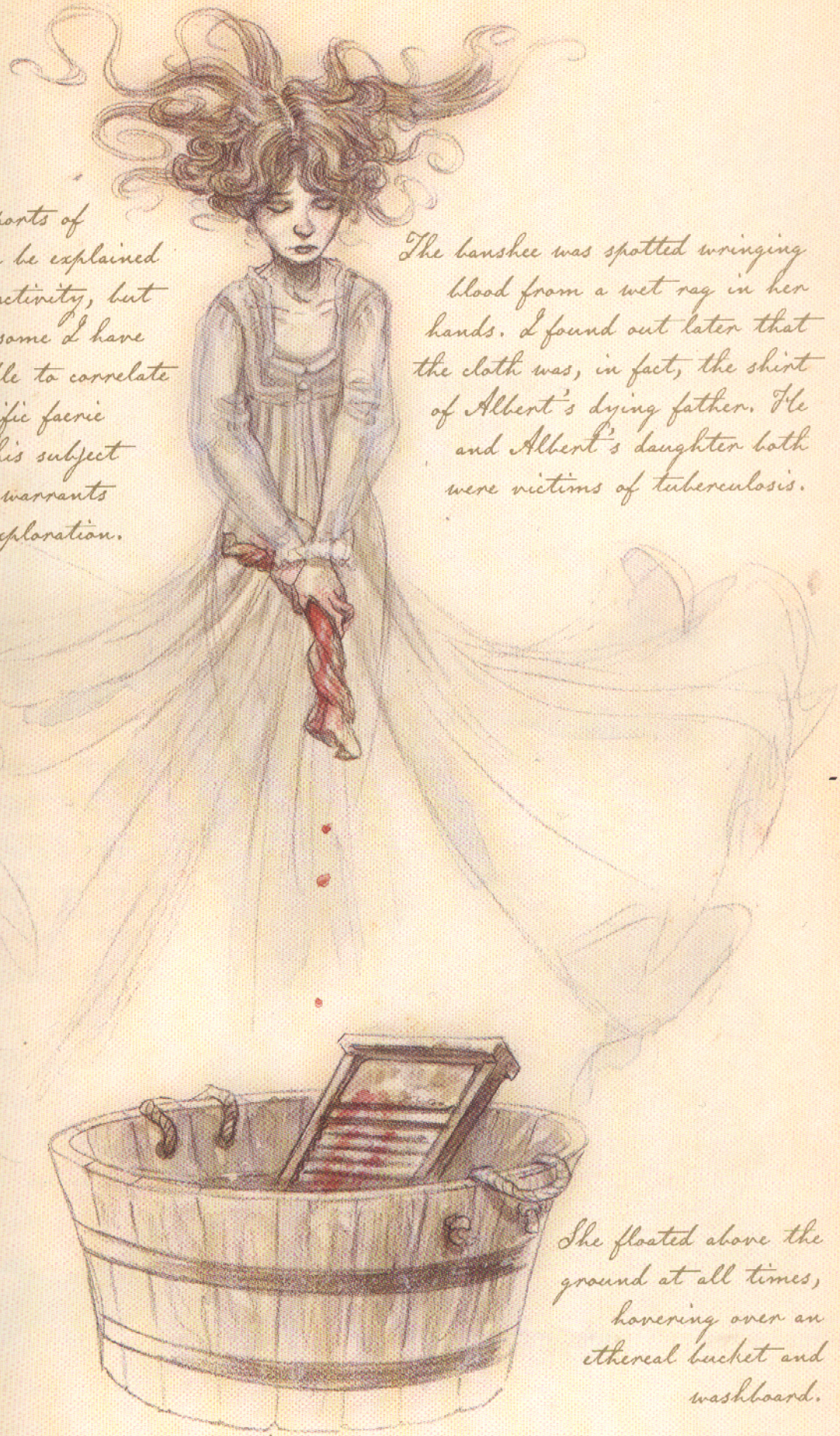
Always barefoot

Hamadryas nemorivagans

ELVEN CHANGELING

RENDERED ONE-FIFTH ACTUAL SIZE





Many reports of ghosts can be explained by faerie activity, but there are some I have been unable to correlate with specific faerie types. This subject certainly warrants further exploration.

The banshee was spotted wringing blood from a wet rag in her hands. I found out later that the cloth was, in fact, the shirt of Albert's dying father. He and Albert's daughter both were victims of tuberculosis.

She floated above the ground at all times, hovering over an ethereal bucket and washboard.

Dryas styx?

BANSHEE

RENDERED ONE-EIGHTH ACTUAL SIZE

His tiny eyes were used to low-light conditions.



This dwarf's name was Jarlite. He was as curious about me as I was about him.

Many have white beards, although black beards have also been recorded.

Much of their clothing is drab and earthen in color.

His skin was pale . . . almost translucent.

J. Spiderwick

Fossor borealis

NORTHERN QUARRY DWARF

RENDERED ONE-FOURTH ACTUAL SIZE



Gigas orientalis

EASTERN HILL GIANT

Equipment & Protection

Before one begins an expedition to observe the habits and habitats of fantastical creatures, there are several useful items one should collect.



A thermos with milk for appeasing and luring faeries.



A bag of salt can dispell some magical illusions, and many faeries cannot abide it.

Bring a journal (and pencils) to record all of your findings.





Bind oak, ash, and thorn twigs together with red thread to offer protection against faeries.



A backpack or satchel is useful for carrying everything.





A flashlight and magnifying glass will come in handy.

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Her hair grew in brown and green stalks that imitated thatch.

Her eyes were a very pale green; her voice sounded like birdsong.

She was about the size of a human child.

The leaves of her dress were a drab green with rusty brown blotches.

Her feet were stained a deep green from dancing in the grass.

May 1st, [illegible]

I spied a female in an old field dancing about in the grass. As she [illegible] around, small seeds fell from the leaves of her dress.

Noticing my presence, she stopped and studied me, seemingly curious. I told her that I meant no harm and that I was only there to observe and record.

She stared at me for some time and then "You have come too far. Your destiny forever changed." With that, she



Hamadryas compensis

FIELD PISKIE

RENDERED ONE-FOURTH ACTUAL SIZE

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A large but shy boggart, named Lickspittle, that I discovered in a town nearby. His mischief seemed less malicious than the usual boggart fare. In fact, he reminded me strongly of a hobgoblin.

This rogue was stealing an infant's milk bottle each night and drinking it, leaving a hungry and screaming baby.

He had made his home in the chimney, and he left sooty footprints all over the floor each morning.



Custos domesticus

COMMON HOUSE BOGGART

RENDERED ONE-HALF SIZE

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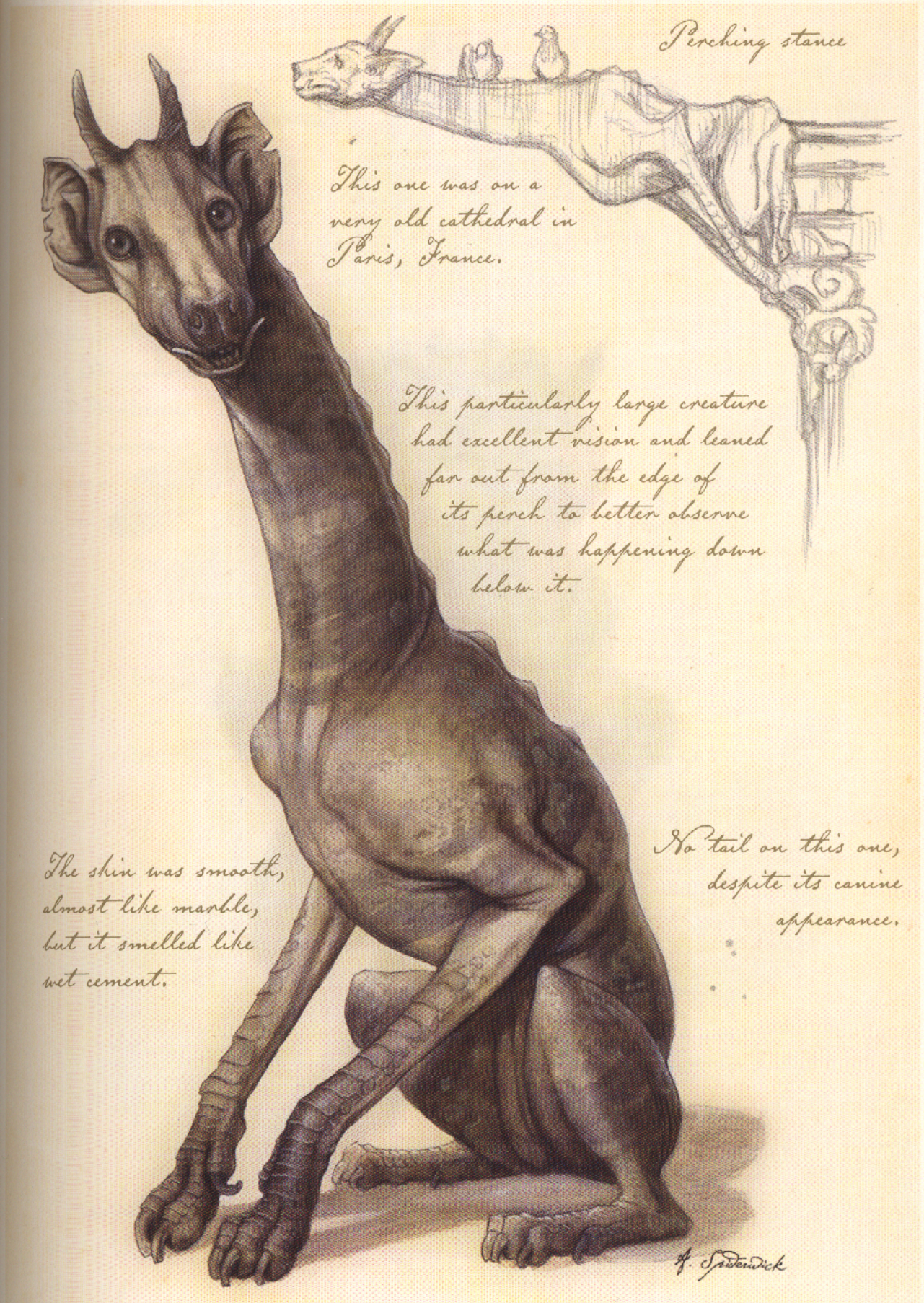
Hydra?

Thier tails can intertwine and eventually bond together.

Adults can reach large sizes, about 12-20' in length

the juveniles are similar in shape to some species of salamanders

A large prescence of methane in their nesting areas leads me to wonder if the poisonous gas is emanating from them somehow...



Ecclesiahabitans longicolleus

LONG-NECKED GARGOYLE

RENDERED ONE-SEVENTH ACTUAL SIZE



Martigor martigor

MANTICORE

REPRESENTATIVE SPRITE SPECIES OF THE WORLD

Illustrating Bioluminescent Features



Prepared by the Spiderwick International Sprite League

March 14th, 1912

A specimen was spotted by a rancher while it was diving at his cattle.

I wondered how it was that he had the Sight (allowing him to spot the creature), and it turns out he was the seventh son of a seventh son.

This paddle on the tip of the tail may act as a rudder while the creature is in flight.

The dragon made a call starting with a hiss and ending with more of a warble.

Was it communicating with the farmer or others in the vicinity?

There were patches of fine down on its back and on the dorsal side of the wings.



A. Spiderwick

Draco alatus

LONG-TAILED WYVERN

RENDERED ONE-EIGHTH ACTUAL SIZE



Series of sketches showing a gargoyle's hopping movement

I believe that they absorb their nutrients from rainwater through their porous skin.

They become quite active during storms, especially if they have been dormant for an extended period of time.

However, if struck by lightning, they become instantly petrified and fall to the ground where their body shatters upon impact.

H. SpiderDick

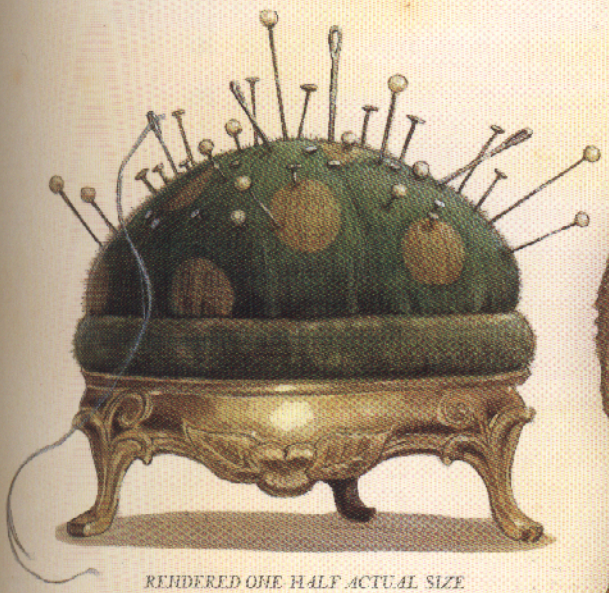
Ecclesiahabitans despuens

SPITTING GARGOYLE

Not all brownies looked like Thimbletack. This fellow, named Tam Turtledove, lived in a very old home in a nearby town.

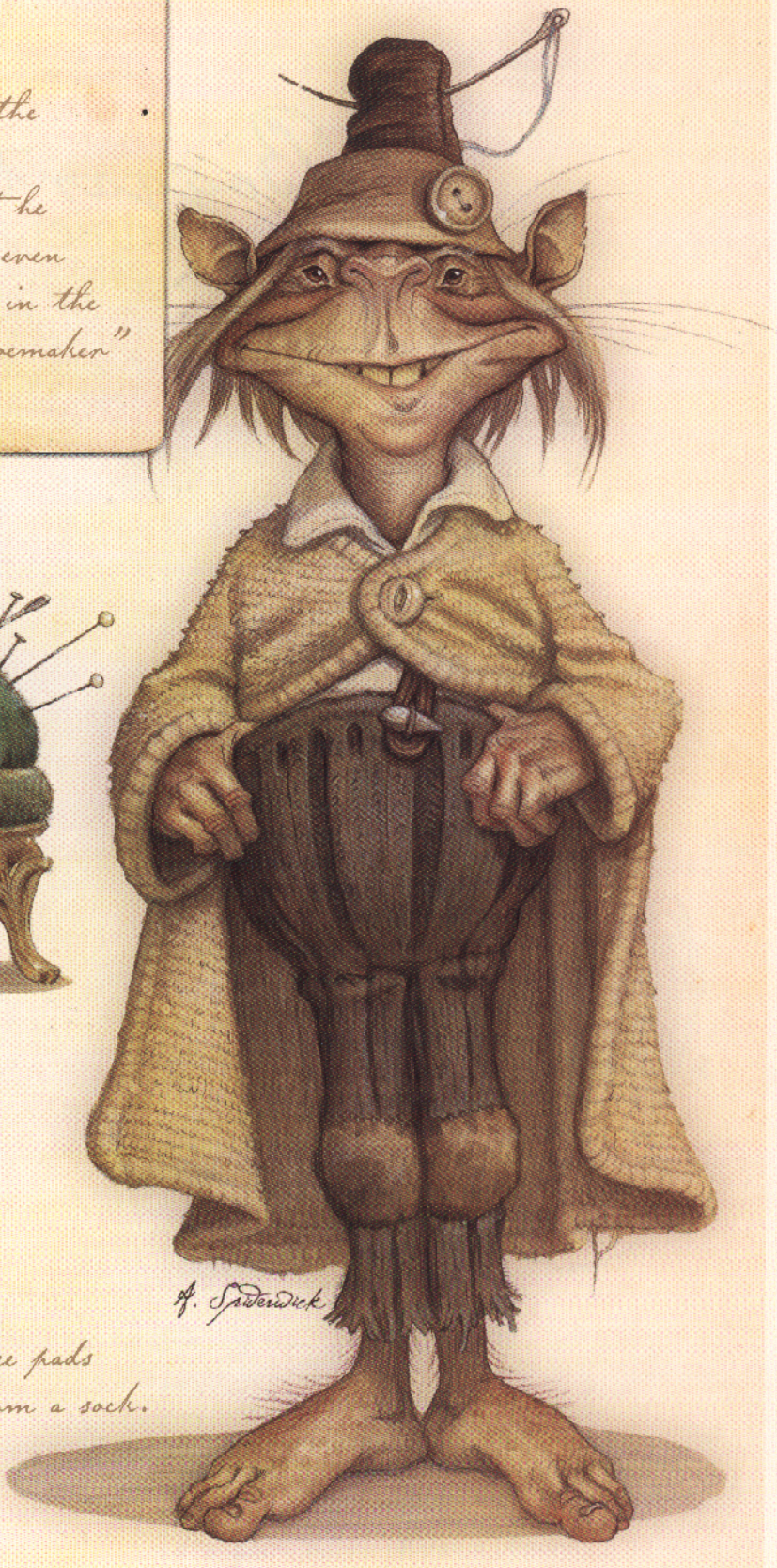
As with many sightings I've researched, only the children of the household could see him.

Tam was a "mender." At night he would patch holes in clothing and even fix shoes. I wonder if the cobblers in the fairy tale "The Elves and the Shoemaker" were, in fact, brownies.



RENDERED ONE HALF ACTUAL SIZE

Tam's pincushion found under kitchen floorboard



He has stitched leather knee pads onto his trousers, made from a sock.

Custos domesticus

COMMON HOUSE BROWNIE

RENDERED ACTUAL SIZE



Custos domesticus

COMMON HOUSE BROWNIE

RENDERED ACTUAL SIZE

Copyrighted Material

Trolls

FAMILY NOCTURNIDAE

Trolls are afflicted with a ravenous and never-ending hunger that leads them to devour whole flocks of livestock. . . . Nocturnal by necessity since sunlight will turn them instantly to stone, trolls are more common far to the north, where it is dark for months at a time. Water trolls live primarily in or near freshwater, along the banks of a bog or deep river.

The hump and the top of the head, the only portions of the troll seen above water level, look like partially submerged rocks.

Their long arms are perfect for reaching over a bridge and grabbing passersby.



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Siren caribbaeanus

CARIBBEAN MERMAID

RENDERED ONE-SIXTH ACTUAL SIZE

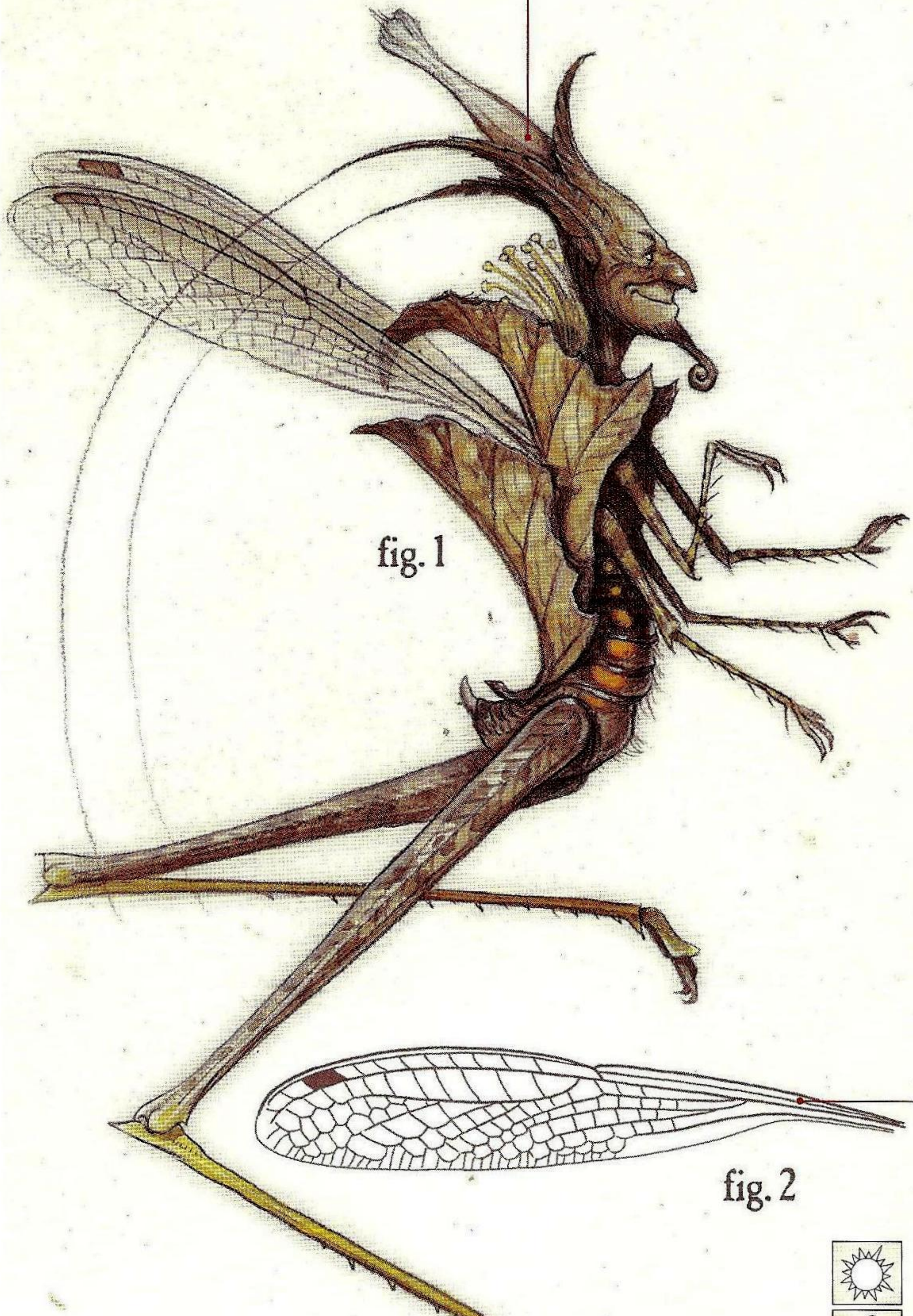


fig. 1

fig. 2

Gryllus barbatus

BEARDED HOPPER

fig. 1 - Lateral view

fig. 2 - Detail of wing showing veination

ACTUAL SIZE: 28 mm

Ce spécimen a environ cinq siècles.

Il dégage une discrète odeur de feuilles mouillées.

Les mâles semblent plus bigarrés que les femelles, surtout à la fin de l'automne.

Voici Lorengorm, un garde elfique. Il s'est toujours beaucoup méfié de moi.

Son armure semble constituée de feuilles séchées et de cosses.

Lorengorm a taillé son arc dans un bois que je n'ai pas reconnu.



TAILLE RÉELLE

Pointe elfique trouvée dans la terre

- Une pointe elfique est une pièce rectangulaire de pierre noire. C'est l'une des rares traces que laissent derrière eux les archers elfiques. Ces pointes sont mortelles : elles s'insinuent dans la poitrine des combattants adverses jusqu'à leur percer le cœur.

A. Spiderwick

Dryas nemorivagans

ELFE DES BOIS (MÂLE)

TAILLE RÉELLE SEPT FOIS PLUS GRANDE

fig. 1 - Lateral view

fig. 2 - Detail of male (top) and female (bottom) vestigial tails showing bioluminescent glands

fig. 1



fig. 2

Petasus floridus

FLOWER-HEAD

ACTUAL SIZE: 45 mm

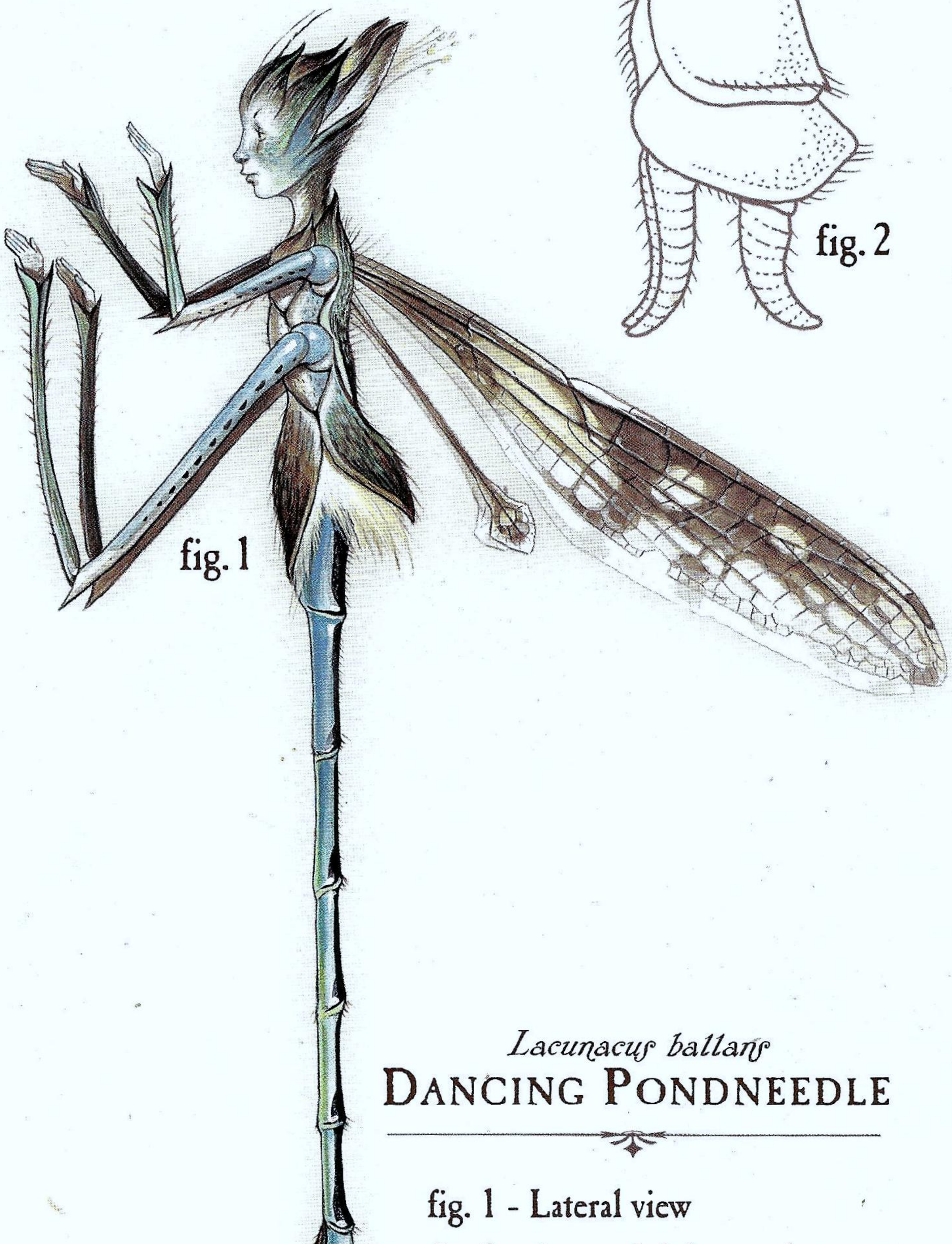


fig. 1

fig. 2

Lacunacus ballans

DANCING PONDNEEDLE

fig. 1 - Lateral view

fig. 2 - Apex of abdomen (on male) showing cerci

ACTUAL SIZE: 63 mm



Fossor borealis

NORTHERN QUARRY DWARF

RENDERED ONE-FOURTH ACTUAL SIZE



fig. 1

fig. 2

Bacula caerulea

LITTLE BLUEBERRY SPRITE

fig. 1 - Lateral view

fig. 2 - Antenna detail

ACTUAL SIZE: 32 mm



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3

Puella dumetae

THICKET SPRITE

fig. 1 - Antenna of *Puella agilis*

fig. 2 - Antenna of *Puella communis*

fig. 3 - Lateral view

ACTUAL SIZE: 48 mm



fig. 4

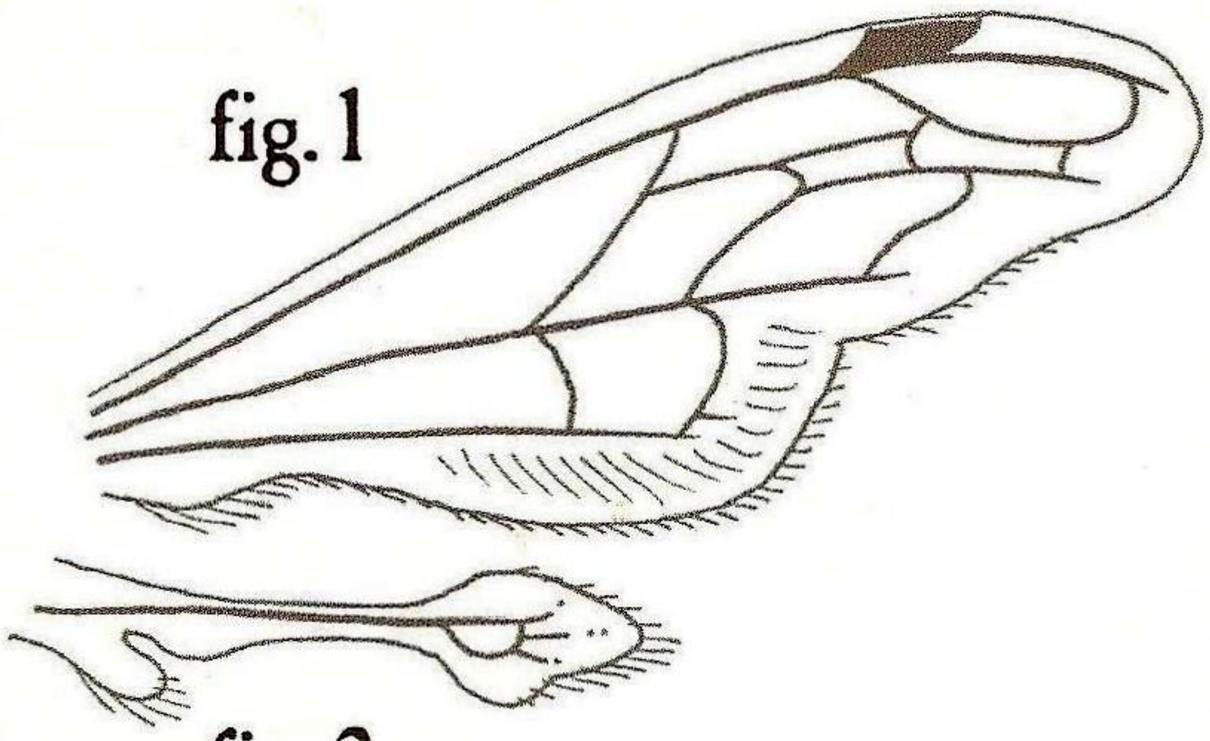


fig. 1

fig. 2



fig. 3

Surculigens surculigens

SPROUT SPRITE

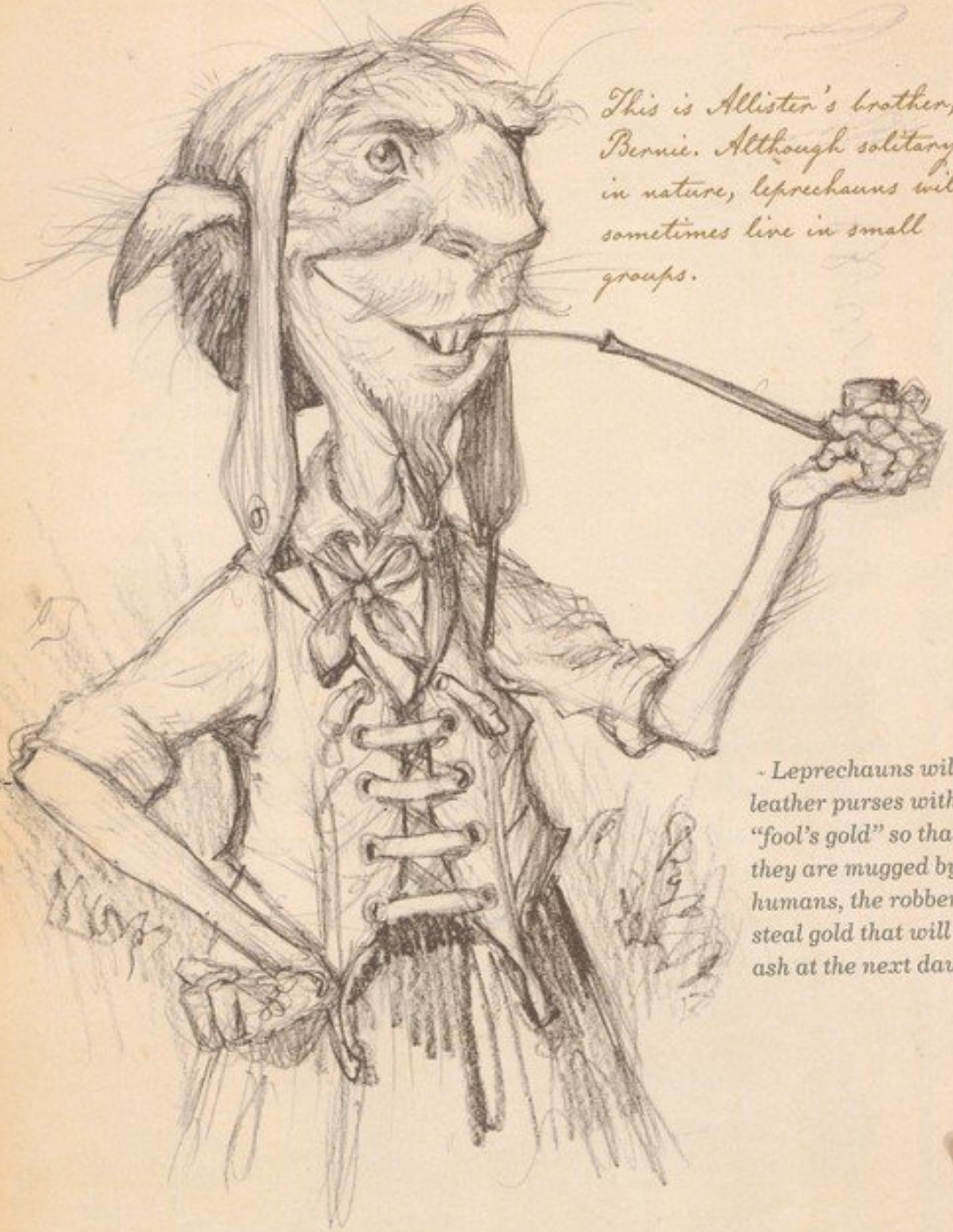
fig. 1 - Primary flight wing

fig. 2 - Haltere

fig. 3 - Proleg and tarsus

fig. 4 - Lateral view

ACTUAL SIZE: 51 mm



This is Allister's brother, Bernie. Although solitary in nature, leprechauns will sometimes live in small groups.

- Leprechauns will carry leather purses with "fool's gold" so that if they are mugged by humans, the robber will steal gold that will turn to ash at the next dawn.

Bernie gave me a handful of golden sunflower seeds. As I expected, by dusk the glamour had worn off and the golden luster was gone, revealing ordinary seeds. Surprisingly, however, when I split one open, I discovered a kernel of gold inside the shell.



This is a very ancient oak tree that I discovered deep in a nearby wood.



No other trees grew near it, and it was planted in a clearing full of wildflowers. It would not speak to me, despite my most earnest effort. However, no matter where I paused around its massive diameter, it still gazed down upon me with its gnarled eyes.



This chap's name was Allister Sassafras. He lived in a nearby field where he would make single shoes.



Sutor vetus

OLD-WORLD LEPRECHAUN

RENDERED ONE-HALF SIZE



Like some merfolk, nixies have "hair" that is, in fact, external gill filaments that take in oxygen from the water as they swim.

They have no fingernails or hair to speak of, and their skin has a beautiful opalescent sheen to it, much like the soft underbelly of a frog.

I was able to get this one to pose for me by bringing our Victrola record player to the bank and playing music, which she greatly enjoyed.

Nixies have a translucent nictitating membrane that functions as a third eyelid and protects the eye while underwater.

Nympha lymphae

FRESHWATER NIXIE

RENDERED ONE-FIFTH ACTUAL SIZE



The track of a lake kelpie walking in mud

You can clearly see the additional hooved toes in its tracks. Like unicorns, kelpies have a toe configuration more akin to ancestral horses.

The stride is approx. 55 cm, a bit smaller than a horse's.



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fact that they are steadily increasing their business, and the future looks especially bright for them.

SWIMMING HOLE GRAVEYARD

REMAINS OF CHILDREN FOUND FOUL PLAY SUSPECTED

Dredging a popular swimming hole for traces of two missing children resulted in the discovery of human remains. Although uncertain as to how many bodies were found, police believe there are too many to be attributed to natural causes. As yet there is no word on whether Edith, 10, and Peter, 12, are among the dead.

Many in the community report that the hole is a popular place for swimming in the summers and that they've even seen horses cool off with a plunge into its waters.

Estim

Don't

W.

The On

M.

-55-

March 1st, 1929

My wife is increasingly troubled by what she calls my "grisly and macabre" interest in the recent spate of watery deaths. She thinks I am becoming obsessed.

March 2nd, 1929

Perhaps my wife is right. The shifting nature of faeries continues to confound me. How am I to present my findings to the scientific community and be taken seriously?

I am no longer sure what is real and what is illusion.

[overleaf]

Items used as teeth which I extracted from the gums:

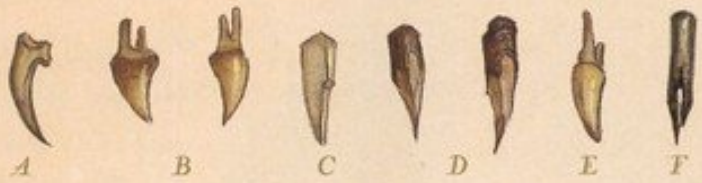


FIG. A bird's talon FIG. B and E mammalian teeth
FIG. C glass shard FIG. D sharpened wood FIG. F pen nib



Underside of hand showing opposable thumb

Goblins have acute hearing and a highly refined sense of smell.



As masters of refuse, they will use anything discarded by humans.

Goblins urinate to mark their property and territory.

Diabolus vulgaris

COMMON GROUND GOBLIN

RENDERED ONE-FOURTH ACTUAL SIZE



Diabolus invidiosus

GREATER BULL GOBLIN

RENDERED ONE-FOURTH ACTUAL SIZE



Diabolus invidiosus

GREATER BULL GOBLIN

RENDERED ONE-FOURTH ACTUAL SIZE



Diabolus praestigiator

COMMON HOB

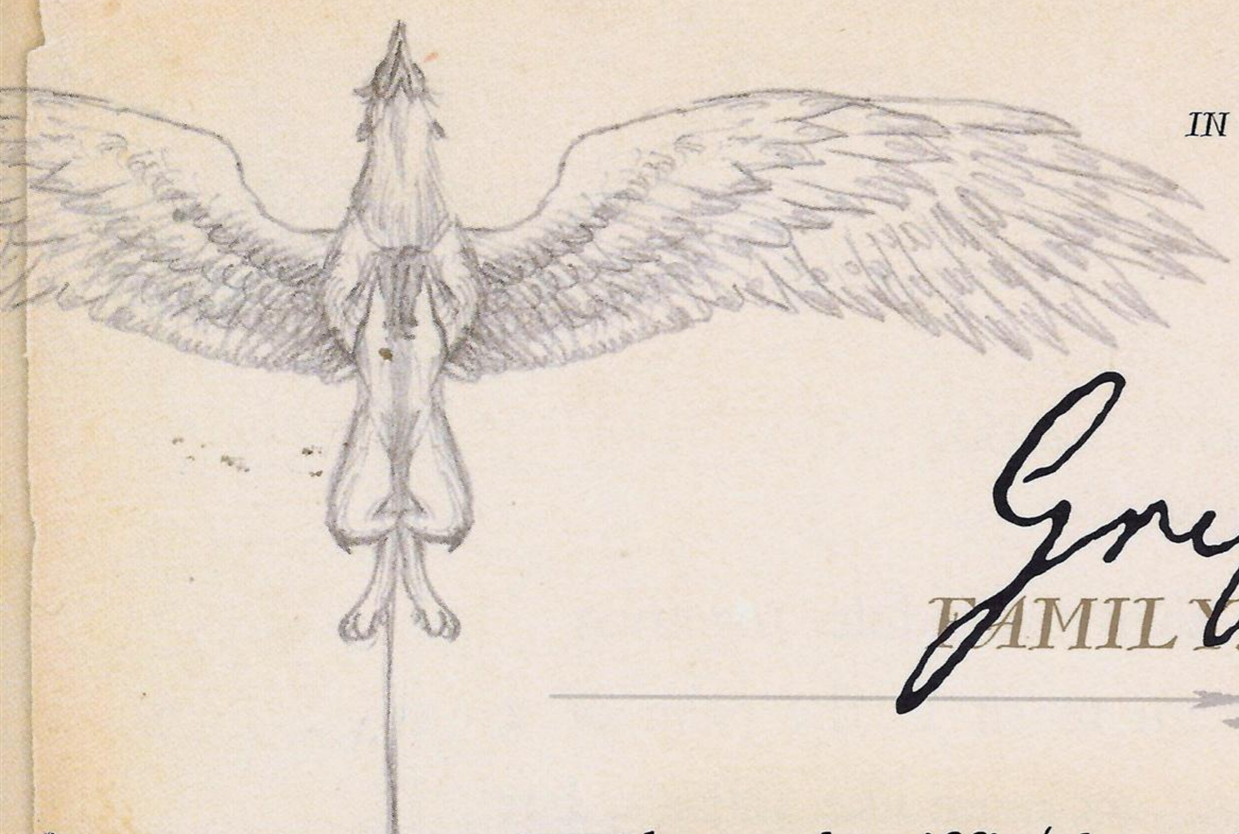
RENDERED ONE-THIRD ACTUAL SIZE



Siren pacificus

PACIFIC SEA-MAID

RENDERED ONE-FIFTH ACTUAL SIZE



Wingspan: approx. 4 m

Griffins

FAMILY: MIXTIDAE

The regal *griffin* (also spelled *gryphon*) is thought to be the offspring of an eagle (king of the air) and a lion (king of all beasts). Its plumage ranges from cream to deep brown, yet some specimens have feathers with a deep, dark bluish sheen.

While many griffins migrated to Europe from the Middle East in the thirteenth century, most remain desert-dwelling. They roost in high places and are only likely to be spotted when they fly in search of food. Their bones are more commonly discovered, although they are often mistaken for the bones of dinosaurs.

The adult griffin is about the size of a lion but far stronger. Despite their formidable natural advantages, griffins are very rare. Unlike less fantastical hybrids like mules, however, they can reproduce. Their eggs are said to be made of agate.

Griffins are resistant to the poison of dragons and very hostile to horses. For this reason, the offspring of a griffin and a horse—the *hippogriff*—is considered to be a symbol of the enduring power of love.

Egg redrawn from memory. I did not dare risk taking it from the nest.



RENDERED ONE-HALF ACTUAL SIZE

Banshees

FAMILY: CIRCULIFESTIDAE?

Like brownies, *banshees* are loyal to their households, but rather than help with chores, these eerie and gloomy beings wander the grounds of estates, keening and washing the grave-clothes of those about to die.

Although banshees are described by some as beautiful and by others as hideous, all agree that there is something terrifying about the sight of one. There are even reports that a few unlucky people who have looked into the face of a banshee died of fright. The song of a banshee is similarly lovely and unsettling.

Some believe that preventing a banshee from mourning or refusing to listen to its song will delay death, but this seems unlikely as, in most cases, a banshee is not the cause of death but merely its herald.

Before the death of one of Albert's daughters, the banshee was seen carrying this doll and weeping.



August 17th, 1918

While visiting my friend Albert, I was warned to draw the drapes and not to open the windows under any circumstances. It being a warm and muggy night, I was puzzled, and I grew even more puzzled when I saw a white figure darting across the lawn.

I went outside and found a weeping girl. Her words made no sense to me and she would not tarry to talk.

In her presence, I found myself shivering from a chill that did not abate when I returned to the house.

Flattery got this ogre, Balcorus, to pose for me. He insisted on a formal portrait as opposed to my "animal paintings."

Some ogres dress very lavishly, others prefer simpler attire. This one was wearing a silk banyan from the 1700s.

He was fond of griffin meat and had adorned himself with claws and feathers.



Here he is holding a goblet made from a unicorn's horn. Many species I found had six or seven digits on each hand and foot.

Horrifer perraultanus

PERRAULT'S OGRE

RENDERED ONE-NINTH ACTUAL SIZE



Perching stance

This small, feisty gargoyle was living on an old building in New York which is now a bank.

Small, webbed hands resemble wings but are incapable of flight.

Legs and feet are heavily muscled on this specimen.

It snorted quite a bit and made a growling croak sound.

Ecclesiahabitans nanus

DWARF GARGOYLE

RENDERED ONE-THIRD ACTUAL SIZE


ANISH MOHAN
CONCEPT ©TONY DITERLIZZI